

July 29, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Guidance for 2006 Assessment, Listing and Reporting Requirements Pursuant to Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act

FROM: Diane Regas, Director /s/  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

TO: Water Division Directors  
Regions 1-10

I am pleased to provide a copy of the *Guidance for 2006 Assessment, Listing and Reporting Requirements Pursuant to Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act* (IRG). The 2006 IRG was developed in a cooperative effort between EPA Headquarters, EPA Regional offices, and a number of interested state partners. EPA also posted a draft version of the guidance on its Web site for public comment between February 22, 2005 and April 22, 2005. Subsequently, EPA received approximately 40 sets of comments on the draft from a wide range of stakeholders. Those comments have been addressed in the final guidance.

This guidance is for states, territories, authorized tribes, and interstate commissions that help states prepare and submit section 305(b) reports (hereinafter referred to as “jurisdictions”). It outlines development of their biennial Integrated Reports (IR) in support of EPA’s strategy for achieving a broad-scale inventory of water quality conditions. The objective of this document is to provide jurisdictions a recommended reporting format and suggested content to be used in developing a single document that integrates the reporting requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d), section 305(b), and section 314 (pursuant to the CWA, jurisdictions report to EPA biannually on the condition of waters within their boundaries). Each IR will report on the water quality standards attainment status of all waters, document the availability of data and information for each water, identify certain trends in water quality conditions, and provide information to managers in setting priorities for future actions to protect and restore the health of our nation’s aquatic resources.

As stated in its introduction, the 2006 IRG is a comprehensive compilation of relevant guidance EPA has issued to date regarding IR; however, there are few changes from the 2004 guidance. The 2006 IRG provides: (1) increased emphasis on the use of the Assessment Database (ADB) or comparable electronic data format (the ADB is being modified to accommodate the recent format, content, and multi-category listing option that the guidance suggests), (2) greater clarity on the content and the format of those components of the IR that are

recommended and required under CWA sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314, (3) greater clarity on issues associated with data solicitation, collection, consideration, and interpretation of water quality standards, (4) additional information on the option to report water quality status of individual segments in more than one category (e.g., to show that some designated uses of a water are being attained and some designated uses are not), and (5) additional clarity and flexibility on alternatives to total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for attaining water quality standards (e.g., utilization of reporting “Category 4b”).

Thank you for all of your help and input in the development of this 2006 IRG. The document may be found on our Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/2006IRG>. Should you have questions about the guidance, please contact Sarah Furtak at 202-566-1167.

**Guidance for 2006 Assessment, Listing and Reporting  
Requirements Pursuant to Sections 303(d), 305(b) and 314 of  
the Clean Water Act**

**July 29, 2005**

**Watershed Branch  
Assessment and Watershed Protection Division  
Office of Wetland, Oceans and Watersheds  
Office of Water  
United States Environmental Protection Agency**

This document provides EPA's guidance for preparing the 2006 Integrated Report. The Integrated Report is intended to satisfy the listing requirements of sections 305(b) and 314 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This guidance document discusses existing requirements of the CWA and EPA's implementing regulations. Those statutory and regulatory provisions contain legally binding requirements. This document describes those requirements; it does not substitute for them. The recommendations in this document are not binding; indeed, there may be other approaches that would be appropriate in particular circumstances. When EPA makes a decision on a state's section 303(d) list, it will make each decision on a case-by-case basis and will be guided by the applicable requirements of the CWA and implementing regulations, taking into account comments and information presented at that time by interested persons regarding the appropriateness of applying these recommendations to the particular situation.

## CONTENTS

Section	Page
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....	v
I. INTRODUCTION .....	6
II. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTIONS 303(D), 305(B), 314 AND CORRESPONDING REGULATIONS .....	9
III. RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATION OF AN INTEGRATED REPORT .....	13
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	14
PART A. INTRODUCTION .....	14
PART B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....	14
PART C. SURFACE WATER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT .....	17
PART D. GROUND WATER MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT .....	25
PART E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .....	25
IV. ISSUES CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AN ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY .....	29
V. FIVE-PART CATEGORIZATION OF WATERS .....	46
VI. REPORTING RESULTS .....	65
GLOSSARY .....	66
APPENDIX: DATA ELEMENTS FOR 2006 INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION FOR DEFINING AND LINKING SEGMENTS TO THE NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET .....	70

## TABLES

Table	Page
2-1 SUMMARY OF STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER CWA SECTIONS 303(D), 305(B) AND 314 AND CORRESPONDING REGULATIONS .....	11
3-1 ATLAS .....	15
3-2 SIZE OF SURFACE WATERS ASSIGNED TO REPORTING CATEGORIES .....	19
3-3 ATTAINMENT RESULTS CALCULATED USING PROBABILISTIC MONITORING DESIGNS .....	20
3-4 SEGMENT/POLLUTANT COMBINATIONS REMOVED FROM STATE’S YEAR 2004 SECTION 303(D) LIST .....	21
3-5 TMDL DEVELOPMENT STATUS .....	21
3-6 INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED USE SUPPORT SUMMARY .....	22
3-7 SIZE OF WATERS IMPAIRED BY CAUSES .....	22
3-8 SIZE OF WATERS IMPAIRED BY SOURCES .....	23
3-9 TROPHIC STATUS OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLICLY OWNED LAKES .....	24
3-10 TRENDS IN LAKE WATER QUALITY .....	24
3-11 SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY REPORTING ELEMENTS OF AN INTEGRATED REPORT .....	27
5-1 RECOMMENDED WATER QUALITY INDICATORS FOR GENERAL DESIGNATED USE CATEGORIES .	52
5-2 DOCUMENTATION OF “GOOD CAUSE” TO MOVE SEGMENTS FROM CATEGORY 5. ....	58

## FIGURES

Figure	Page
4-1 USING MULTIPLE TYPES OF DATA TO ASSESS ATTAINMENT .....	45

## EXHIBITS

Exhibit	Page
3-1 RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATION FOR YEAR 2006 INTEGRATED REPORT SUBMITTALS .....	13
5-1 2006 INTEGRATED REPORTING GUIDANCE: SEGMENT CATEGORIZATION GUIDE .....	48

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Assessment Database
AU	Assessment Unit
CALM	Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology
CPP	Continuing Planning Process
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
DQO	Data Quality Objectives
DU	Designated Use
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
GPRA	Government Performance Report Act
IR	Integrated Report
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSSP	National Shellfish Sanitation Program
OW	Office of Water
PPG	Performance Partnership Grant
PWS	Public Water Supply
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RIT	Reach Indexing Tool
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
STORET	STORage and RETrieval
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WQC	Water Quality Criteria
WQS	Water Quality Standard